

Justin Paré, President  
John Simmons, Vice President  
John Costello  
Daniel Donovan  
Mark Gould, Jr.



Darius Gregory  
Andrew Shanahan  
Andrea Slobogan  
Patricia St. Pierre

Town of North Attleborough  
**TOWN COUNCIL**  
43 South Washington Street, North Attleborough, MA 02760  
Phone: (508) 699-0100

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1/13/2025 - Minutes

**I. Pledge Of Allegiance**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

President Pare' called the meeting to order at 7:00P.M. and lead the Town Council and the audience in the pledge of allegiance.

**Town Council Members Present:**

Justin Pare'  
John Simmons  
Andrew Shanahan  
Mark Gould  
Dan Donovan  
John Costello  
Pat St. Pierre

**Members Absent:**

Darius Gregory  
Andrea Slobogan

**School Committee Members Present:**

Tasha Buzzell, Chair  
Keith LaPointe  
David Chee

**Members Absent:**

Ethan Hamilton

Gideon Gaudette

Sarah Stone

Charlie Peters

**Staff Present:**

Town Manager Michael Borg

Assistant Town Manager Antonio Morabito

Clerk of the Council Kerrin Billinghoff

DPW Director Mark Hollowell

Treasurer/Tax Collector Chris Sweet

NAFD Chief Chris Coleman

NAPD Chief Rick McQuade

Senior Center Director Karen Testa

Assistant Assessor Cheryl Smith

Facilities Director Tim Chouinard

Communications & Information Officer Taylor O'Neill

School Superintendent Dr. John Antonucci

School Assistant Superintendent Michelle McKuen

**Residents:**

Laura Wagner Member of the Charter Review Committee

John Donohue Chair of the Charter Review Committee

Jeremy Felman a teacher at Martin School

Jennifer Evans Principle of Martin School

**Invited Guests Present:**

Kim Ciaramicoli to be confirmed as a member of the Conservation Commission

David Sequeira to be confirmed as a member of the Charter Review Committee

**Documents Reviewed:**

- Town Council Meeting Minutes of December 9, 2024
- Measure 2025-037- Confirmation of Appointment of Kim Ciaramicoli to the Conservation Commission
- Measure 2025-022- Confirmation of Appointment of Bryan Butler as the Building Commissioner
- Measure 2025-031- Confirmation of Appointment of David Sequeira to the Charter Review Committee
- A review of the Financial Condition of the Town and other relative information to **develop a coordinated budget, in accordance with Section 6-2** of the Town Charter Power Point
- Measure 2025-026- Approval of Purchase and Installation of Accessible Playground Equipment and Associated Landscaping and Fencing for Joseph W. Martin Elementary School in the amount of \$139,995.32 to be funded from Capital Improvement Program Stabilization Fund. AMENDED
- Measure 2025-027- **Approval of Purchase of Office Furniture for Senior Center**
- **Measure 2025-028-** Approval to adopt a section of Massachusetts General Law Chapter 59 Section 5K to allow taxpayer(s) over the age of 60 to earn a property tax credit for a maximum tax exemption of \$2,000.00. AMENDED
- Measure 2025-029- Authorization to finance Dispatch Console Replacement project with free cash re-purposed from Emergency Operations Center Upgrade project and Capital Improvement Program Stabilization funds in the amount of \$248,634.00
- Measure 2025-030- Authorization to transfer FY25 Free Cash in the amount of \$294,076.00 to the School Department for Chapter 70 Differential
- Measure 2025-032- **Authorization to repurpose funds in the amount of \$28,786.00** from the Martin Boiler Project to the Roosevelt Hot Water Heater Replacement Project
- Measure 2025-033- Authorization to transfer FY25 Free Cash in the amount of \$3.2 mm to the Capital Improvement Program Stabilization Account
- Measure 2025-034- Authorization to approve the appropriation of NAFD funds from **the FY25 budget in the amount of \$1,946.68 for Holiday Payout from FY24**
- Measure 2025-035- Authorization to Transfer \$22,945.04 accumulated interest from Sewer Retained Earnings to Sewer I & I Stabilization Fund
- Measure 2025-038- Appropriation request for use of FY25 retained earnings from Comcast PEG Access for North TV information technology equipment replacement in the amount of \$23,031.70
- Measure 2025-039- Authorization to transfer \$37,042.94 from the Reserve Account to the Insurance Premiums Account to pay the Insurance Premium for the Town's **Insurance Policies**
- Measure 2025-040- Authorization to Re-purpose Funds from Town Clerk's CIP Digitization Project to Purchase Office Furniture in the amount of \$11,485.83

**II. Executive Session**

- a. M.G.L. c.30A, Sec. 21(a), Sec. 4 - To discuss the deployment of or strategy regarding security personnel or devices, e.g. a sting operation.

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security personnel or devices, e.g. a sting operation.

Vice-President Simmons made a motion to enter into Executive Session pursuant to M.G.L. c.30A, Sec. 21(a), Sec. 4 - To discuss the deployment of or strategy regarding security personnel or devices, e.g. a sting operation. Vice-President Simmons stated that after Executive Session the Town Council and School Committee would be returning to Regular Session.

Councilor Donovan seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote was taken:

Justin Pare' YES

John Simmons YES

Andrew Shanahan YES

Mark Gould YES

Dan Donovan YES

John Costello YES

Pat St. Pierre YES

**Motion carried 7-0.**

School Committee Member Keith LaPointe made a motion to enter into Executive Session pursuant to M.G.L. c.30A, Sec. 21(a), Sec. 4 - To discuss the deployment of or strategy regarding security personnel or devices, e.g. a sting operation.

Committee Member Sarah Stone seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote was taken:

Tasha Buzzell, Chair	YES
Keith LaPointe	YES
David Chee	YES
Gideon Gaudette	YES
Sarah Stone	YES
Charlie Peters	YES

**Motion carried 6-0.**

Vice-President Simmons made a motion to exit Executive Session and return to Regular Session.

Councilor Donovan seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote was taken:

Justin Pare'	YES
John Simmons	YES
Andrew Shanahan	YES
Mark Gould	YES
Dan Donovan	YES
John Costello	YES
Pat St. Pierre	YES

**Motion carried 7-0.**

Committee Member Keith Lapointe made a motion to exit Executive Session and return to Regular Session.

Committee Member Sarah Stone seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote was taken:

Tasha Buzzell, Chair	YES
Keith LaPointe	YES
David Chee	YES
Gideon Gaudette	YES
Sarah Stone	YES
Charlie Peters	YES

**Motion carried 6-0.**

### III. Approval Of Minutes

- a. Approval of Town Council Minutes of December 9, 2024

Approval of Town Council Minutes of December 9, 2024

Vice President Simmons made a motion to approve the Town Council Committee Minutes of December 9, 2024.

Councilor Costello seconded the motion.

**Motion carried 7-0.**

### IV. Town Councilor Community Updates

Nothing heard at this time.

### V. Town Manager's Report

Town Manager Michael Borg gave an overview of the Town Manager Report. Items he reviewed included:

- Emergency Management -Updates
- Communications-Updates
- Operations-Updates
- Budget-Updates
- Personnel-Updates

- NAFD Chief Coleman gave a brief update on the two fires that occurred over the weekend at 35 Woodchip Square and John C. Porter way.

- DPW Director Mark Hollowell was in attendance to address the Town Council and Residents of the Town and give an update on PFAS:
  1. Water in Town is Safe to drink
  2. North Attleborough is in compliance with water regulations
  3. Water Kiosk is going away in February
  4. There is no need for a Water Kiosk when your water is meeting the levels required by the DEP
  5. There are no sub-groups that cannot drink water
  6. Water is safe for everyone
  7. TOWN is in FULL COMPLIANCE!
  8. All information about PFAS can be found on the DPW Website, including all of the sampling test results for the past 4 years
  9. By 2029 all systems will be compliant with PFAS

## VI. Resident And Community Comment

John Donohue was in attendance to address the Town Council. Mr. Donohue expressed that both the Town Council and the School Committee have done a great job in the last five years and should be commended. He thanked everyone for their service to the Town and expressed that we have a lot to be thankful for. Mr. Donohue stated that the best is yet to come!

## VII. Confirmations

- a. Measure 2025-037- Confirmation of Appointment of Kim Ciaramicoli to the Conservation Commission

**Measure 2025-037**- Confirmation of Appointment of Kim Ciaramicoli to the Conservation Commission

An interview with Kimberly Ciaramicoli of 152 South Broadway, North Attleborough, MA was completed with the Town Manager to serve as a member of the Conservation Commission. Ms. Ciaramicoli was previously a member of the Commission. She is a wealth of knowledge and her experience and expertise is extremely valuable to the Commission and we are very happy to welcome her back.

Therefore, I respectfully request the Town Council confirm the appointment of Kimberly Ciaramicoli as a member of the Conservation Commission. Her term will expire on June 30, 2026.

Ms. Ciaramicoli was in attendance and thanked the Town Council for the opportunity to serve the community.

Vice-President Simmons made a motion to approve Measure 2025-037- Confirmation of Appointment of Kim Ciaramicoli to the Conservation Commission.

Councilor Costello seconded the motion.

**Motion carried 7-0.**

- b. Measure 2025-022- Confirmation of Appointment of Bryan Butler as the Building Commissioner

**Measure 2025-022-** Confirmation of Appointment of Bryan Butler as the Building Commissioner

**This measure is continued to the next Town Council Meeting on January 27, 2025.**

- c. Measure 2025-031- Confirmation of Appointment of David Sequeira to the Charter Review Committee

**Measure 2025-031-** Confirmation of Appointment of David Sequeira to the Charter Review Committee

An interview was conducted with David Sequeira of 86 Richards Ave., North Attleborough, MA, for consideration to serve as a member of the Charter Review Committee. During the interview, David demonstrated a strong commitment to public service, with a long history of involvement in municipal government. He currently serves as the Procurement Officer for the Town of Hingham, a role that has provided him with valuable expertise and insight into municipal operations.

David's professional experience and familiarity with government processes make him an excellent candidate for the Charter Review Committee, where his skills will contribute meaningfully to the Committee's important work.

Therefore, I respectfully request the Town Council confirm the appointment of David Sequeira as a member of the Charter Review Committee. His term will expire on June 30, 2027.

Mr. Sequeira was in attendance to address the Town Council and thank them for the opportunity to serve the community.

Councilor Costello seconded the motion.

**Motion carried 7-0.**

## **VIII. A REVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL CONDITION OF THE TOWN**

- a. A review of the Financial Condition of the Town and other relative information to develop a coordinated budget, in accordance with Section 6-2 of the Town Charter.

A review of the Financial Condition of the Town and other relative information to develop a coordinated budget, in accordance with Section 6-2 of the Town Charter.

Town Manager Borg delivered a review of the Financial Condition of the Town and presented a Power Point to the Town Council and the School Committee. Topics reviewed:

- Charter Requirement and Acknowledgments
- Notable Achievements

- Revenue and Expenditure Update
- Year-End Forecast
- Key Topics Impacting the FY26 Budget
- Capital Projects Preview
- Closing Remarks

There was discussion amongst the Town Council, the School Committee and Town Manager Borg.

Topics Discussed:

- Insurance- Retired Teachers are covered by their own Policy
- Non-Teachers- Are the "Town Retirees"
- Looking at every aspect of Health Care and how we can save money.
- Town offers 2 plans HMO and PPO
- Need to find solutions for Health Care
- Town Attorney's expenses are increasing/ Would an In-House Attorney help?
- Blanket Contracts
- Because the Town switched to Self-Insured? Is this the reason that the premiums are so high?

## IX. PUBLIC HEARING

### a. DISCUSSION & VOTE

#### **DISCUSSION & VOTE:**

Vice-President Simmons read the Legal Ad into the Record and opened the Public Hearing:

#### **TOWN OF NORTH ATTLEBOROUGH**

#### **TOWN COUNCIL**

#### **PUBLIC HEARING**

#### **LEGAL NOTICE**

**JANUARY 13, 2025**

The Town Council will hold a Public Hearing in the JoAnn Cathcart Conference Room in Town Hall located at 43 South Washington Street, on **MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 2025 at 7:00PM**, on the following **Capital Improvement Projects-**

**Measure 2025-026- Approval of Purchase & Installation**

**of Playground Equipment for Martin School**

and

**Measure 2025-027- Approval of Purchase of Office Furniture for Senior Center**

Additional Information can be found on the Town’s website at:

<HTTPS://WWW.NATTLEBORO.COM/548/TOWN-COUNCIL-MEASURES-DATABASE>

Councilor Donovan seconded the motion to open the Public Hearing.

Roll Call Vote was taken:

Justin Pare’                    YES

John Simmons                YES

Andrew Shanahan        YES

Mark Gould                 YES

Dan Donovan                YES

John Costello               YES

Pat St. Pierre               YES

**Motion carried 7-0.**

Jeremy Felman a Teacher at Martin School addressed the Town Council, Town Manager, Commission on Disabilities, and the School Committee and thanked them for the New Playground.

Martin School Principal Jennifer Evans was in attendance to thank the Town Council and School Committee for bringing this playground to fruition.

Facilities Director Tim Chouinard reported that they will do everything possible to ensure a speedy delivery of the playground equipment. The procurement process will begin right away, and the installation of the playground will depend on vendor and the lead time of equipment. We will work as quickly as possible to have it installed once it is received.

- i. Measure 2025-026- Approval of Purchase and Installation of Accessible Playground Equipment and Associated Landscaping and Fencing for Joseph W. Martin Elementary School in the amount of \$139,995.32 to be funded from Capital Improvement Program Stabilization Fund. AMENDED

**Measure 2025-026-** Approval of Purchase and Installation of Accessible Playground Equipment and Associated Landscaping and Fencing for Joseph W. Martin Elementary School in the amount of \$139,995.32 to be funded from Capital Improvement Program Stabilization Fund. AMENDED

The play structures at the Joseph W. Martin Elementary School are not accessible to all students. To enhance inclusion among the student body, school administration solicited design and pricing for equipment to augment - not replace - their current playground equipment, and they engaged the State Representative for a \$50,000 earmark. An enthusiastic parent group raised an additional \$12,000. School administration and the parent group brought the plans to the Commission on Disability, and they won their endorsement. The Schools Department brought the project to the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Committee, and the body voted to recommend approval of the project to the Town Manager. The \$50,000 earmark from the Commonwealth will expire on 30 June 2025, therefore the Town Manager approves the project and recommends the Town Council take this CIP project out of cycle. Approval will allow adequate time to use the state earmark and enable construction while school is recessed for the summer.

To complete the project, the Public Facilities Department will require funding beyond the state earmark and donations collected by the parent group:

Utiplay quote:           \$201,995.32

State Earmark:           -\$50,000

Donations:               -\$12,000

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Total Required:        \$139,995.32

Vice-President reported that this measure was discussed at the January 8, 2025 Finance Sub-Committee meeting and was voted in favor 6-0 and recommended back to the Full Town Council with a favorable recommendation.

Vice-President Simmons made a motion to approve Measure 2025-026- Approval of Purchase and Installation of Playground Equipment for Martin School.

Councilor Donovan seconded the motion.

**Motion carried 7-0.**

- ii. Measure 2025-027- Approval of Purchase of Office Furniture for Senior Center

**Measure 2025-027-** Approval of Purchase of Office Furniture for Senior Center

**Purpose:**

The move of the North Attleborough Senior Center to its new location at 451 Elm Street has highlighted the need for updated and additional furniture & equipment. To fund the requirement, Own officials engaged the State Representative, and he

secured a \$65,000.00 earmark. The Senior Center Director brought a furnishing and equipment procurement project to the Town Manager. The \$65,000.00 earmark will expire on June 30, 2025, therefore the Town Manager approves the project and recommends that Town Council take this CIP Project out of cycle. Approval will allow adequate time to use the state earmark and allow the Senior Center to execute its planned move in July 2025.

The CIP Projects feature the following:

- Senior Center Reception Desk
- Office Desk & Chairs
- **Filing Cabinets**
- Bookcases
- Dining Table
- Stackable Chairs/with Storage Dolly
- Wire Shelving
- Kitchen Equipment
- Tabletop Bingo Game
- Electric Fireplace
- Card Tables & Chairs
- Easy Chairs
- Decorations

Vice-President Simmons made a motion to close the Public Hearing.

Councilor Donovan seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote was taken:

Justin Pare'                      YES

John Simmons                      YES

Andrew Shanahan                      YES

Mark Gould	YES
Dan Donovan	YES
John Costello	YES
Pat St. Pierre	YES

**Motion carried 7-0.**

Vice-President Simmons reported that this measure was discussed at the January 8, 2025 Finance Sub-Committee Meeting and was referred back to the Full Town Council with a favorable recommendation with a unanimous vote of 6-0.

Vice-President Simmons made a motion to approve Measure 2025-027- Approval of Purchase of Office Furniture for Senior Center at 451 Elm Street.

Councilor Donovan seconded the motion.

**Motion carried 7-0.**

## **X. Sub-Committee Reports**

### **a. Finance**

- i. Measure 2025-028-Approval to adopt a section of Massachusetts General Law Chapter 59 Section 5K to allow to allow taxpayer(s) over the age of 60 to earn a property tax credit for a maximum tax exemption of \$2,000.00. AMENDED**

**Measure 2025-028-** Approval to adopt a section of Massachusetts General Law Chapter 59 Section 5K to allow taxpayer(s) over the age of 60 to earn a property tax credit for a maximum tax exemption of \$2,000.00. AMENDED

#### **Purpose:**

To amend the Town's Senior Work-Off Program by adopting a provision of Massachusetts General Law Chapter 59, Section 5K, which increases the maximum property tax credit that eligible senior taxpayers can earn from \$1,000 to \$1,500 annually. This measure seeks to provide greater financial relief to senior residents who contribute their time and skills to the Town through volunteer work, recognizing their valuable contributions while addressing rising costs of living. The Town currently caps the total program funding at \$50,000 annually paid from the Town's Overlay account.

#### **Description:**

The Senior Work-Off Program, authorized under Massachusetts General Law Chapter 59, Section 5K, allows taxpayers aged 60 or older to earn a property tax credit by volunteering for the Town in various capacities. Currently, the Town provides a

maximum property tax exemption of \$1,000 annually, with the overall program capped at \$50,000 annually by the Town.

This measure proposes to increase the allowable maximum exemption to \$1,500 annually to better align the program with rising property taxes and living expenses faced by seniors. By adopting this adjustment, the Town will:

Expand financial support for senior homeowners, helping them to remain in their homes and maintain their quality of life.

Enhance the program's value, encouraging more participation and creating opportunities for seniors to contribute their skills and knowledge to Town operations.

Acknowledge the economic challenges faced by seniors in North Attleborough and demonstrate the Town's commitment to supporting its senior community.

Approval of this measure will ensure that the Senior Work-Off Program remains an effective and meaningful way to support our senior residents while benefiting the Town through their dedicated service.

There was discussion amongst the Town Council and the Town Manager about this measure. We would like to make sure that we find every opportunity to serve each and every senior that would like to take part in this program. We wouldn't want to raise the amount and then have to limit the amount of Seniors being able to participate to a lesser amount because of the increase in the dollar amount.

Councilor Gould requested a friendly amendment for disabled Seniors to designate a person to perform work on their behalf. In the interest of equity and fairness, they should be able to receive this benefit as well as non-disabled Seniors. The Law specifically provides for that.

Vice-President Simmons seconded the motion to amend.

**Motion to amend passed 7-0.**

Vice-President Simmons made a motion to approve Measure 2025-028- Approval to adopt a section of Massachusetts General Law Chapter 59 Section 5K to allow taxpayers(s) over the age of 60 to earn a property tax credit for a maximum tax exemption of \$2,000.00, as proposed and also to ensure equitable access to the Tax work off program, all disabled seniors shall be able to designate a person to perform work on their behalf, as amended.

Councilor Donovan seconded the motion.

**Motion carried 7-0.**

- b. Economic Growth & Sustainability

Nothing to report at this time.

- c. By-Law

Nothing to Report at this time.

- d. Rules

Nothing to Report at this time.

- e. School Committee Representative

Nothing to Report at this time.

- f. School Building Committee (MSBA)

Nothing to Report at this time.

- g. Communication, Public Participation & Engagement

Councilor Donovan made a motion to refer 1. Newsletter/flyer/mailing to residents; 2. Online forum for residents to submit questions/concerns; 3. Expanding Town Hall Talks to include residents as well as town employees; be referred to the Communications, Public Participation, and Engagement Meeting Agenda for further discussion.

Councilor Gould seconded the motion.

**Motion carried 7-0.**

- h. Local Emergency Planning

A meeting is scheduled for January 29, 2025 at 10:00AM.

- i. Audit Review Committee

President Pare' reported that we should have all of the information back from the CLA by early February and then we can plan to meet and review.

**XI. Old Business**

- a. None at this time

## XII. New Business

Vice-President Simmons made a motion to refer the following measures, Measure 2025-029, Measure 2025-030, Measure 2025-032, Measure 2025-033, Measure 2025-035, Measure 2025-038, Measure 2025-039, and Measure 2025-040 to the Finance Sub-Committee for further review and discussion.

Councilor Donovan seconded the motion.

**Motion carried 7-0.**

- a. Measure 2025-029- Authorization to finance Dispatch Console Replacement project with free cash re-purposed from Emergency Operations Center Upgrade project and Capital Improvement Program Stabilization funds in the amount of \$248,634.00
- b. Measure 2025-030-Authorization to transfer FY25 Free Cash in the amount of \$294,076.00 to the School Department for Chapter 70 Differential
- c. Measure 2025-032-Authorization to repurpose \$28,786.00 of funds that had been allocated from the Martin Boiler Project to be used to fund the Roosevelt Hot Water Replacement Project for the School Department
- d. Measure 2025-033- Authorization to transfer FY25 Free Cash in the amount of \$3.2 mm to the Capital Improvement Program Stabilization Account
- e. Measure 2025-034- Authorization to approve the appropriation of NAFD funds from the FY25 budget in the amount of \$1,946.68 for Holiday Payout from FY24

**Measure 2025-034-** Authorization to approve the appropriation of NAFD funds from the FY25 budget in the amount of \$1,946.68 for Holiday Payout from FY24

As required the holiday payout for December 2024 was encumbered in June of 2024 however, due to a personnel issue beyond the control of the Administration the Holiday Payout left a shortage of \$1946.68.

Therefore, I am requesting the Town Council to authorize the appropriation of funds from the Fiscal Year 2025 budget in the amount \$1,946.68 to cover a shortage in the Holiday Payout from Fiscal Year 2024.

Vice-President Simmons made a motion to approve Measure 2025-034- Authorization to approve the appropriation of NAFD funds from the FY25 budget in the amount of \$1,946.68 for Holiday Payout from FY24.

Councilor Donovan seconded the motion.

**Motion carried 7-0.**

- f. Measure 2025-035- Authorization to Transfer \$22,945.04 accumulated interest from Sewer Retained Earnings to Sewer I&I Stabilization Fund
- g. Measure 2025-038- Appropriation request for use of FY25 retained earnings from Comcast PEG Access for North TV information technology equipment replacement in the amount of \$23,031.70

- h. Measure 2025-039- Authorization to transfer \$37,042.94 from the Reserve Account to the Insurance Premiums Account to pay the Insurance Premium for the Town's Insurance Policies
- i. Measure 2025-040- Authorization to Re-purpose Funds from Town Clerk's CIP Digitization Project to Purchase Office Furniture in the amount of \$11,485.83

### **XIII. Adjournment**